

HOLSWORTHY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health 1964.

Medical Officer of Health	-	H. Mervyn Thomas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Senior Public Health Inspectors	-	T. A. J. Fowler, & C. J. Smith, M.A.P.H.I. M.A.P.H.I. Until 10.7.64. From 13.7.64.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	-	P. Howard, & T. C. J. White, M.A.P.H.I. M.A.P.H.I. Until 13.4.64. From 17.8.64.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	80,220
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	..	..	..	..	..	7330
No. of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	2477
Rateable Value (at 31st March 1964)	..	..	..	..	..	£127,381
Product of penny rate (Year to 31st March 1965)	..	..	..	..	..	£514. 7. 11.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births a) Legitimate	..	..	..	..	104
b) Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	5
Totals	..	..	..	..	109
Crude Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	17.0
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	3
Infant Deaths (under 1 year old)	..	..	..	..	1
" " (under 4 weeks old)	..	..	..	..	1
" " (under 1 week old)	..	..	..	..	1
Maternal Deaths	0
Total Deaths	116
Crude Death Rate	15.8
Corrected Death Rate	13.1



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CAUSES OF DEATH

												Males	Females
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	0	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	6
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Other Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	19
Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
TOTALS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	64

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

									Visits
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	540
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	112
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Drainage .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Sewage Works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Water Supplies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Refuse Tips ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises					..	..	..	..	73
Food Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Milk Samples ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Infectious Diseases		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Insect, Pests and Rodent Control				..	..	..	..	..	11
Caravans .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Disease of Animals Act		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cemetery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42

HOUSING

The following is a list of houses provided by the Council:-

Pre-war:

Holsworthy - Foresters Road	17
Dobles Terrace	6
Pins Park	8
Milton Damerel - Venn Green	2
Chilsworthy - Newcourt	2
Bridgerule - Littlebridge	2
Pyworthy - Derriton Road	2
a total of	<u>39</u>

Post-war:

Holsworthy - Pins Park	10
" Glebeland	46
" Stanhope Close	48
" Westcroft (aluminium prefabs)	15
" Well Park (converted wartime huts)	7
" Dobles Square (converted wartime huts)	3
 Ashwater - Manor Park	 6
Black Torrington - Bowhay	10
Bradford - Queens Park	8
Bradworthy - Tuckers Park	20
Bridgerule - Bridge Park	12
Clawton - Claw Park	12
Halwill - Holywell Park	12
Halwill - Fir Park	2
Chilsworthy - Quarry Park	4
Milton Damerel - Venn Green	2
" " Beech Park	4
Pyworthy - Derriton Road	10
Sutcombe - Square Park	4
Tetcott - Lana Park	4
Thornbury - Dennis Close	4
West Putford - Sessacott	2
	<u>245</u>

HOUSING (contd.)

Steady progress is being maintained on the Council's housing programme, which is the responsibility of our Council's Surveyor. The Authority are fully alive to the need for a high standard of accommodation or rents which prospective tenants can afford in an area where wages are low.

As will have been seen from previous reports, the Council are the owners of a high proportion of residential property in the district. During the year, ten Council houses were completed and tenants of unfit properties were rehoused wherever possible.

Thirty private houses were completed.

A survey of the district, relating to the standard of living accommodation, was started during the year with the result that three houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and the appropriate action, under the Housing Acts, taken.

Houses completed during the year were:-

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|---|----|
| a) | By the Rural District Council | . | . | 10 |
| b) | By private enterprise | . | . | 30 |

Number on the list at the end of 1964, after transfers of new tenancies and removals from list of persons having left the district - 132.

RENT ACT 1957

No action was deemed necessary under the Rent Act 1957, during the period under review.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A steady flow of applications for Improvement Grants has been most encouraging together with the enlightened approach of the Council towards Discretionary Grants. Forty five standard grant applications were received during the year of which all but two were approved.

The refusals occurred in relation to one extremely sub-standard property in one case, which, it was felt, would not remain reasonably fit for human habitation for not less than fifteen years without the execution of certain repairs. The owner declined to effect the required works and the grant was therefore not approved. The other refusal was given when it was found that the application was in respect of the construction of a new dwelling.

The number of Discretionary Grant applications received was four. Approval was given in each case.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (contd.)

The change in the Standard Grant structure to include expenditure on the construction of septic tanks was welcomed in this rural community. There are many dwellings whose location prohibits the construction of a public sewer. Many properties are scattered in remote areas which will probably never be sewered.

The change in administration however has entailed extra work, but a smoothly working system has been evolved due to close liason with the Surveyor, who deals with the byelaw side of the applications.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

Routine inspections of food premises have not been made as frequently as one would have wished, owing to the high proportion of time spent on Meat Inspection duties. It has, however, been found possible to observe catering establishments and food premises generally when visits are made in connection with other matters.

The general standard of hygiene would appear reasonably satisfactory and no legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

A. Number of Food Premises:--

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes, Resturants, Fish Salons	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers & Provision Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Markets - Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Pannier...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

In addition there are five stalls in the market arcade which are used only on market days. Four of these five function as butchers shops. An additional fishmonger attends the Panier Market on Wednesdays.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA (cont)

B. Thirteen premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, for the retail sale of pre-packed ice cream.

C. Five premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

There are two licensed slaughterhouses within the district. One is located in Holsworthy and the other at Halwill Junction. Neither premises is wholly satisfactory and the Government's indecision over the future of the railways locally, has caused considerable inconvenience to the occupiers of both slaughterhouses as each belong to the Transport Commission and are leased to the occupiers. Both premises are in need of improvement and enlargement which is being delayed by the uncertain future of the railways and associated property.

Nevertheless, improved lighting has been installed in both establishments and at the Halwill slaughterhouse additional lairage accommodation has been provided. At the close of the year, a report on conditions existing at the Holsworthy slaughterhouse was in course of preparation for submission to the Council.

A total of 56,610 food animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year. Of these 40,688 were slaughtered at Halwill, this number representing an increase in throughput of some 36 per cent for this slaughterhouse.

A one hundred per cent meat inspection service has been maintained with the kind aid and co-operation of a firm of local veterinary surgeons who assist with these duties in times of staff shortage, sickness, holidays etc.,

As will be seen from the introduction to this report, a complete change of technical staff has taken place together with the complete internal re-organisation to form an independent Public Health Department.

Table 'A' on the following page gives details of the animals slaughtered and the parts or organs condemned. The table differentiates between diseases generally and Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.

TABLE 'A'

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND PARTS CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	125	-	66	31125	25194	56510
Number Inspected	125	-	66	31125	25194	56510
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	9	144	54	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	3095	3057	
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	6.4	-	13.63	10.4	12.38	
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	3	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	355	
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.42	
<u>CYSTERCOSIS</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	1	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	1	
Percentage of Bovines inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	2.4	-	-	-	1	

SEWERAGE AND STWAGE DISPOSAL

This function is the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor, who acts in conjunction with a Consulting Civil Engineer. Authority are most keen to proceed with schemes for sewerage the village communities.

Tenders were received for the construction of sewers and disposal works at both Bradworthy and Chilsworthy. Ministry approval has been sought for the acceptance of two tenders and their decision is awaited with regard to both schemes.

The Council are pressing forward with further sewerage schemes for five villages in addition to an extension of the Holsworthy sewer at Staddon Road. A local firm of Consulting Engineers has been engaged by the Council and steady progress is envisaged.

The disposal works serving Holsworthy itself has failed to produce an effluent acceptable to the Cornwall River Board. This was found to be due in part to the washings from the large cattle market. Remedial measures were in hand at the close of the year.

It is also known that the works are loaded beyond their capacity and that enlargement of the works is necessary. Essential alterations to the stormwater overflow have been carried out following meetings with the River Board's Officers.

The remaining disposal works in the district continue to give satisfactory service.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is the direct responsibility of the Surveyor to the Council. The collections are made on a fortnightly basis generally with weekly collections in the larger communities. It is hoped that the frequency of collections will be improved to provide a weekly service throughout the district in the near future.

A tractor and equipment have been purchased to facilitate maintenance of the tips which continue to provide adequate disposal facilities. Controlled tipping is carried out when possible but the shortage of suitable quantities of material make the true practice of controlled tipping impracticable.

Routine baiting for rats and the application of suitable insecticides prevent the occurrence of any form of nuisance.

The paper sack system for refuse collection is viewed with interest, but at the present time it is felt that the traditional dustbin will suffice largely on economic grounds.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (cont)

It is known that a similar Authority experimented with paper sacks and found it more expensive than the old system involving dustbins.

WATER SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board are steadily extending their distribution mains to bring more isolated communities within easy reach of a wholesome water supply.

During the year ten samples of water were taken from various properties where **only a well supply** was available. The Analyst's reports revealed that five samples were unfit for domestic purposes and in each case the occupiers were advised of the need for improvements and whatever precautionary measures should be taken.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine treatments of the sewer systems in the district were carried out as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Satisfactory results indicated that any infestation was very light indeed.

Refuse tips are baited as required. The Council do not employ a Rodent Operator and where complaints are received from the public a visit is made by a Public Health Inspector, who advises on the extent of the infestation and indicates the best mode of treatment and the type of poison.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Twenty Seven Premises are licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit making a total of 30,4000 gallons authorised to be stored. The fees paid to the Council in this connection amount to £23. 10. 0.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Certain requirements of the above Act came into force during the year. A total of ninety three premises were registered by employers as per the following table:-

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Number of Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	42	NIL
Retail Shops	37	1
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	7	NIL
Catering Establishments open to the public	5	NIL
Fuel Storage depots	2	NIL
TOTALS	93	1

In accordance with the Act one non-fatal accident was reported and investigated. The opportunity was taken to make a general inspection of the premises concerned at the same time.

As the Act only came into force during the latter part of the year (which was also a busy time for Meat Inspection duties) it was not possible to make any further general inspections. It was decided to make an initial visit where necessary to explain to employers the general requirements and copies of a "Guide To The Act", were circulated by the Council.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	—	—	—
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	35	—	—	—

